

145/Rev B  
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224-29

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Walker et al.

Examiner:

D. Cain

For:

METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR A CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY  
ASSISTED COMMERCIAL  
NETWORK SYSTEM DESIGNED  
TO FACILITATE AND  
SUPPORT EXPERT-BASED  
COMMERCE



Serial No. 09/112,131

Group Art Unit:

3642

Filed: July 8, 1998

Docket No.: WD2-96-002X\*

\*Please note new docket number

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

NOV 30 1998

Group 2700

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

After entry of the Preliminary Amendment dated July 8, 1998 and prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 - 18 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 67 and 113 as follows:

1. (Amended) An [expert matching] apparatus for managing communications between an expert [having particular qualifications] and an end user [seeking a solution to an end user request], comprising:
- a controller unit for receiving from an end user an end user request that defines a requested expert qualification [generated by an end user], the controller unit having a database

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